

What was in a name?

From a 1908 LaCamas Post:

A move is on foot to petition the post office department to change the name of the post office at this place to LaCamas. The confusion arising in the minds of strangers in the names Camas and LaCamas is against the interest of the town. The town was platted as LaCamas and the official name for the city is LaCamas but the post office is Camas and from this there arises especially in the minds of strangers, considerable confusion.

A number of businessmen have been interviewed on the subject and all favor the change. It is not thought the move will meet with opposition from any quarter. Postmaster Poindexter, for whom the change will make some additional work, says he prefers the name LaCamas

and that he would be willing to see the name of the post office changed. With the patrons of the office petitioning for the change and the postmaster recommending it would seem that the department should grant the request.

The name LaCamas is a modification of Lackamas, the name of the lake just north of town. Just how the change came to be made cannot be learned, but probably resulted from the French pronunciation of the word. At any rate the town and post office were called first LaCamas but in 1894, at the time that J. A. Cowan became postmaster, the post office department changed the name of the office to Camas without any request from the patrons of the office. The reason given was the name was often confused with LaConnor

and LaCenter. But since the change the trouble has not ceased as the confusion now is with Camas Valley, Camas Prairie, Sumas and a number of other offices which when written look like Camas. And as the confusion arising from the name of the town being one thing and the post office another, it is deemed advisable to change one, and the name of the town being more euphonious it is thought by many people here that the office should be changed.

Unless there is opposition it is probable that a petition for the signatures of the patrons of the office will be prepared and circulated in the near future, for if the change is to be made the sooner it is done the better it will be for the interests of the town.